IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a base;

a jaw assembly coupled to the base; ~~and~~

a latch coupled to the base to hold the jaw assembly open, the jaw assembly defining an aperture when open, the latch to allow the jaw assembly to close around a cable automatically to secure the cable in response to insertion of the cable into the aperture, wherein the cable is a light cable for transmitting light;

an actuator coupled to the base to release the latch when the actuator is depressed by the cable, wherein the actuator includes a first channel to allow light to pass through the actuator; and

a second channel coupled to the base and to a light source to supply light to the first channel and to the light cable.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a release mechanism coupled to the base and to the jaw assembly to open the jaw assembly, so as to release the cable and engage the latch.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a liner coupled to the jaw assembly to engage the latch.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the jaw assembly further comprises a serrated inner edge to engage the cable.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~8~~1, further comprising a switch coupled to the base to detect when the jaw assembly is open and to turn off the light source in response to the jaw assembly being open.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a spring coupled to the base and the jaw assembly to hold the jaw assembly open.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~3~~1, further comprising a retainer to retain the actuator when the cable is released is used until the jaw assembly is fully opened.

12. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a light transmission cable inserted into an aperture defined by a jaw assembly in an opened position;

releasing a latch which holds the jaw assembly in the opened position automatically in response to the light transmission cable being inserted into the aperture; ~~and~~

moving the jaw assembly into a closed position around the light transmission cable in response to the latch being released, so as to secure the light transmission cable in the jaw assembly;

activating a switch after the light transmission cabled is secured in the jaw assembly;

activating a light source coupled with the actuator in response to activating the switch; and

directing light from the light source through the actuator and into the light transmission cable.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein releasing the latch comprises depressing an actuator in the aperture when the light transmission cable is inserted and releasing the latch with the actuator.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

releasing the light transmission cable by opening the jaw assembly using a release mechanism;

engaging the latch and holding the jaw assembly in the opened position; and

returning the actuator to the aperture.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a cable inserted into an aperture defined by a jaw assembly in an opened position;

means for releasing a latch which holds the jaw assembly in the opened position automatically when the cable is inserted;

means for moving the jaw assembly into a closed position in response to the latch being released; ~~and~~

means for securing the cable when the jaw assembly is closed;

means for activating a switch;

means for activating a light source coupled with the actuator in response to activation of the switch; and

means for directing light from the light source through the actuator and into the cable.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for releasing the latch comprises means for depressing an actuator in the aperture when the cable is inserted and means for releasing the latch with the actuator.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

means for releasing the cable by opening the jaw assembly;

means for engaging the latch and holding the jaw assembly in the opened position; and

means for returning the actuator to the aperture.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a base;

a jaw assembly coupled to the base, the jaw assembly to define an aperture when opened;

a spring coupled to the jaw assembly and the base, the spring to hold the jaw assembly open;

a plunger actuator having a plunger portion to extend through the aperture, the plunger actuator to receive a cable;

a slide actuator coupled to the plunger actuator and the base, wherein the slide actuator is actuated by the plunger actuator when a cable is inserted into the aperture;

a latch coupled to the base to hold the jaw assembly open, wherein the latch is released by the slide actuator when the cable is inserted in the aperture, and wherein the jaw assembly is closed and the cable is secured when the latch is released;

a release mechanism coupled to the base and to the jaw assembly, the release mechanism to open the jaw assembly, release the cable, and move the plunger portion of the plunger actuator into the aperture.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the jaw assembly further comprises an insert to engage the latch.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the cable is a light cable for transmitting light.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the plunger actuator includes a channel to allow the transmission of light.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a second channel coupled to the base and to a light source to supply light to the channel and the light cable.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a switch coupled to the base to detect when the jaw assembly is open and to turn off the light source in response to the jaw assembly being open.